

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 168

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Margaret Sipes for her thirty years of teaching and her meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Sipes is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a highly trained individual, Mrs. Sipes completed her Bachelor of Arts in German and education at the University of Mississippi, during which time she attended a summer institute in German at Montana State University; she later earned a master's degree in reading from the University of Southern Mississippi, completed thirty hours in classroom management techniques at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, and participated in technology training courses for the classroom through Promethean World; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her education, Margaret Sipes holds a professional teaching license as a Career 3 Teacher and certifications in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sipes began her thirty-year career in education as a German teacher at Boca Ciega High School in St. Petersburg, Florida in August 1968; and

WHEREAS, upon relocating to Tennessee with her devoted husband, Bill Sipes, in January 1969, she began teaching German and English in the Hardin County and Jackson-Madison County school systems; and

WHEREAS, her hard work and recognizable talent attracted the attention of the Tennessee Department of Education, which enlisted her as Director of the Statewide Reading

Program from October 1974 to August 1975, during which time she developed a program to improve student reading in elementary schools statewide and trained 500 teachers to implement this program in their own school systems; and

WHEREAS, since that time, Margaret Sipes has held positions as a features writer for the *Jackson Journal*, a preschool teacher with First Presbyterian Playschool in Jackson, a sixth grade teacher for Bells City Schools, and a German, Spanish, and French teacher in the Jackson-Madison County School System; and

WHEREAS, she currently serves as a teacher at Pope Elementary in Jackson, where she has led both third and fourth grade students and managed the before and after school programs for the last seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, an active member of her community, Mrs. Sipes has volunteered her time and talent to various causes, serving as a blood bank donor, a member of the Franklin County Community Band, a Red Cross Community Coordinator, and a member of the Madison County Disaster Team; and

WHEREAS, she has also been affiliated with the First Presbyterian Church and Mt. Olive Methodist Church as an associate member; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sipes truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Sipes epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Margaret Sipes for her thirty years of teaching, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.